

The idea of progress

Introduction :

This year in class we've talked about the idea of progress and especially illustrated that notion with the example of Telecommuting. Telecommuting refers to the ability for people to work from home. With, generally speaking, just a computer, they achieve the tasks they would have done at the office. So escaping from a stressful working environment represents a step forward, so it definitely relates to the idea of progress.

Link :

With new technologies, it makes very little sense to have people working from a particular place rather than another since the very same work can be achieved from anywhere as long as there is a computer and an Internet access available. So there is no doubt that it is, in fact, possible nowadays to work from home, to telecommute. Though let's take a look at what the real advantages of doing this would be.

Plan:

1. The concrete advantages of telecommuting from a worker's perspective

One of the most obvious concrete advantages of telecommuting is the ability for one to work in a non-stressful environment. Working in an office can turn out to be quite stressful and even frustrating. Thanks to telecommuting, it is possible to work from anywhere you want: most likely one will work from home, in a relaxed environment, but it is possible to bring the idea even further, for instance by working from your very garden. You don't have to wear any specific clothes as well: so you can experience more freedom by working from home. It also means that you don't have to waste a considerable amount of time in transports, to get to work in the morning and get back home in the evening. This is both a saving of time and energy, so it also involves less pollution and might avoid some potential frustration due to slow traffic. Naturally, it makes it possible to schedule your working days in a more flexible way. That way, it become possible for you to pick your kids up at school at be home right in time to get back to work. You most likely can sleep late and catch up with work later as well. A flexible schedule also makes it easier for you to manage breaks, so that you don't have to do 5 hours of work straight in a row. All of that contributes to making work less frustrating and stressful.

Moreover, you can look after young children when working from home, and thus enjoy being with them all day long! With teleworking, you can finally give yourself the time of enjoying being with your children and still be right up catching up work as soon as it's their nap time! Because in the end, teleworking is all about giving you more time. In a society where time has become the main element that always lacks in our lives, telecommuting is a way of giving time back to the people. No more going to fast food restaurants to keep up to schedule, no more arriving late at your children's baseball game: with telecommuting, you have the power of managing your time just the way you want it. So, that lets you eat better food, enjoy your children's performances and in the end, enjoy life some more.

2. Telecommuting from an employer's point of view

Though most people that are reticent to telecommuting believe that it will have a bad

effect of the employee's effectiveness. At the contrary, we have studied a text in class that is the testimony of a company's leader that does attest that on her company, telecommuting brought even more effectiveness. Indeed, due to the fact that workers are less stressed and don't feel oppressed, they are more effective. Moreover, they still are required to end up with the same results as if they were working from the office. So doing telecommuting doesn't involve dropping results. Another shining example of this is Google's employees working conditions: in the Googleplex, they have access to numerous distractions and games so that they can work in a very non-stressful environment. And Google does believe that this is the right way to have better results. And as a matter of fact, Google is still on the cutting edge of technology and is as of today an Internet leader. Moreover, telecommuting can also be a great opportunity for startups: as a matter of fact, if a company decides to operate only with teleworkers, they can totally abstract having any office at all, so that makes more money available for the company.

Conclusion:

So telecommuting really seems like a great opportunity for both workers and employers. However, telecommuting doesn't really fit anyone. So it is first only possible for a certain kind of jobs. Having a contact with a particular environment might be absolutely mandatory in some cases. For instance there is no way around working in the forest for a Lumberjack, just as well as a teacher needs to be standing in front of a class to be effective. Moreover, it does depend on anyone's personality: some people prefer to be in the same room as their coworkers since that brings more human contacts and relationships. There is no coffee break nor common meal possible with telecommuting, so it is also a step towards individualization and it definitely does not fit anyone. Some people would also just want to have their work life clearly separated from their home life, so that they just focus on them at once. Moreover one might get bored of seeing the same people all day long. So it really does depend on your personality.